

## What are Scientific Advisory Groups?

SAGs are groups of experts that meet when a medicine is being assessed and questions are raised that require additional information. SAGs are usually requested by the evaluating committee ([CHMP](#)), the safety committee ([PRAC](#)), or the committee for advanced therapies ([CAT](#)).

The aim of SAG meetings is to respond to specific questions posed by the relevant committee prior to reaching a decision on the safety and efficacy of the medicine.

Currently there are five core SAGs covering cardiovascular, infectious diseases, neurology, oncology and vaccines. When a request arises for a medicine where there is no core SAG, an ad-hoc expert group is organised, which follows the same mandate as a SAG.

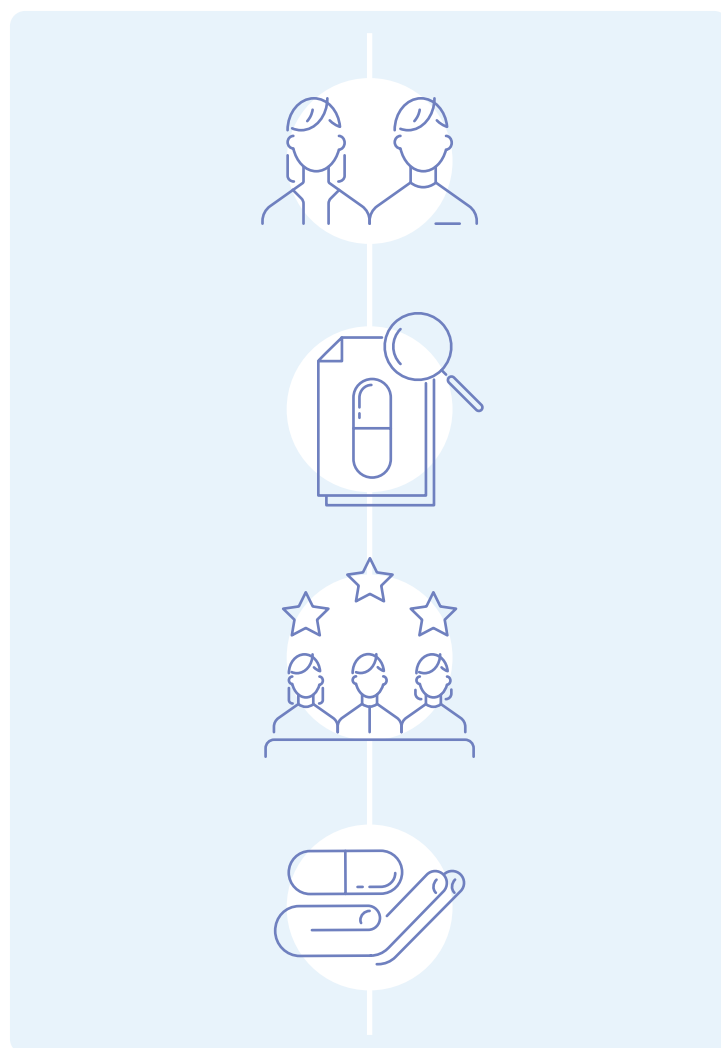
## The role of the patient

Patients are invited to share their real-life perspective and experience in relation to a particular medicine in their disease area. This can help the committees to better understand what patients consider to be important and the safety profile that is acceptable to them. Patients receive personalised support throughout to ensure they understand their role and what is expected from them.

All meetings are held in English; patients can participate in person or virtually. Costs of travel and accommodation are covered, as appropriate.

## Who is involved in SAG meetings?

A SAG meeting consists of the core members of the group, additional invited experts, including patients, EMA staff, and, for some part of the meeting, representatives from the company that has developed the medicine.



## Patient experiences



"It was a worthwhile experience for me to be present as a patient representative."



"A real opportunity to share opinions of patients."



"Fascinating and valuable process. Thank you for this opportunity to learn about this therapy."



"Grateful for having been invited to this important exchange with experts about the new medicine."

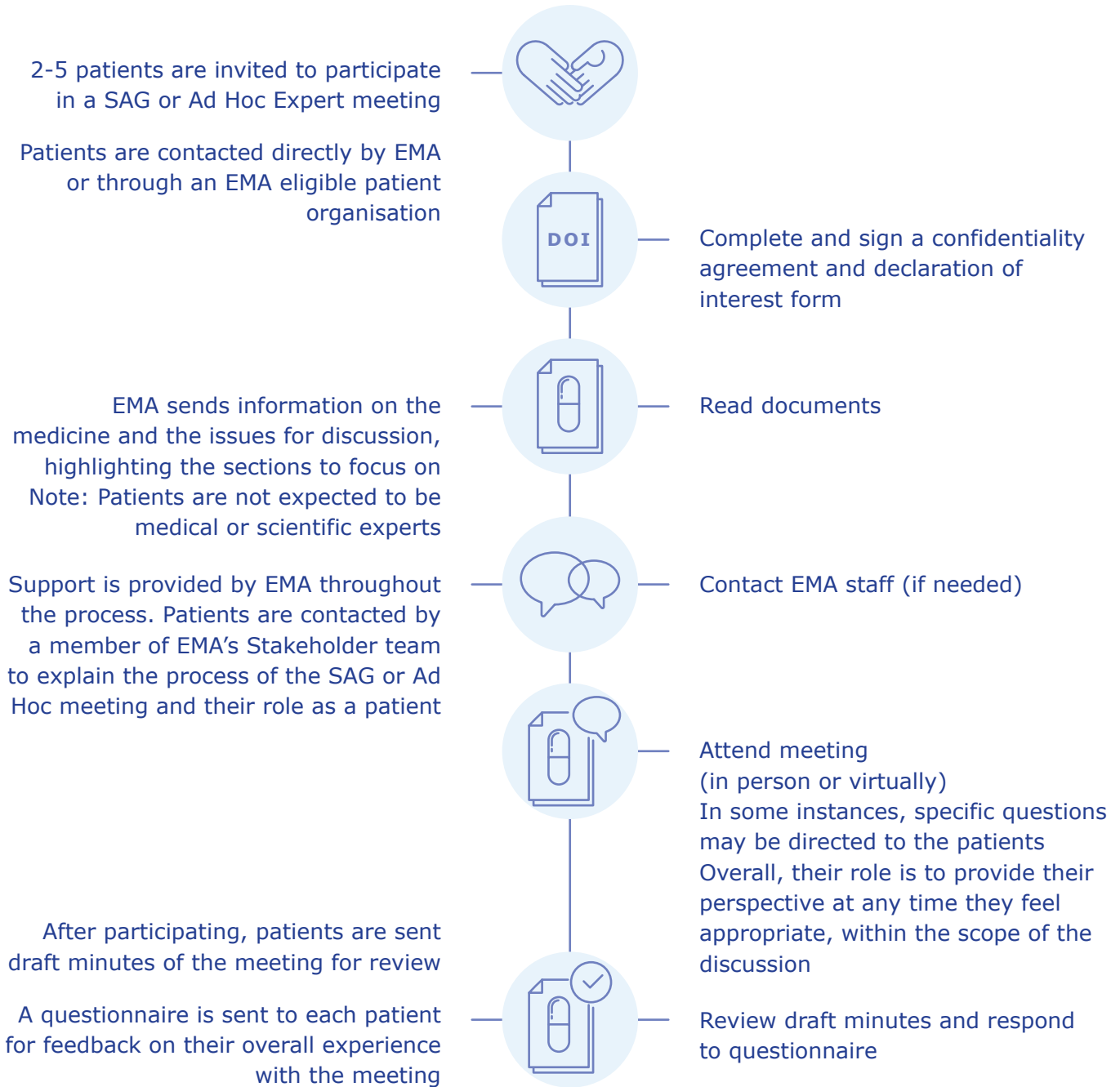
\* In this case, the term patient is used to encompass patients, carers or consumers

# What is the process?

European Medicines Agency



Patients



## For more information



[Video](#) for patients invited to participate in a scientific meeting at EMA.



[Link](#) for more information on patients and consumers involvement in EMA activities.

